

# The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

January 1989



## January Members' Meetings



*Dr. George H. Balazs with a Hawaiian Sea Turtle*

Dr. George H. Balazs

Of the seven species of sea turtles in the world, six occur in waters bordering the United States and its territories, and three species are native to Hawaii. But many turtles have disappeared from areas due to environmental pressures. On Wednesday, January 18 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m., Dr. George H. Balazs will present "20 Years of Adventures and Research with the Endangered Hawaiian Sea Turtle."

A zoologist and leader of the Hawaiian Research Recovery Team, Dr. Balazs has spent a great deal of time studying the Hawaiian sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Combining his work as a research scientist and skilled photographer, Dr. Balazs' photo essay focuses on his efforts to study and protect Hawaiian sea turtles, including personal accounts of research expeditions to the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

During the sea turtle breeding season, when female turtles come ashore to lay their eggs, Balazs often stays up all night measuring and tagging the rare and endangered turtles. His study site is 12-acre East Island, where about 300 of the green turtles that range in Hawaii breed each spring. This tiny islet is one of about 100 atolls, shoals and rocky pinnacles that comprise the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, spanning across 1,110 miles of the Pacific in what is the world's longest and most isolated archipelago.

The Academy Store will be open before and after the January evening meetings. Next month, nature photographer Ron Cronin will present "Oregon Forests" on February 8 and 9.

## New Exhibit Focuses on the Endangered Mountain Gorillas of Central Africa



Nick Nichols

A brilliant combination of talents brings the story of the vanishing mountain gorillas of Rwanda to San Francisco in the special exhibit, "Gorilla," opening January 14 at the Academy. Co-sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences and the Aperture Foundation in New York, "Gorilla" features the compelling photographs of Nick Nichols and original soundtrack with on-location recordings by Dr. Bernie Krause, the man responsible for the environmental orchestration of the Academy's African Waterhole.

As visitors to the exhibit trek through a bamboo jungle, the history of humans and gorillas becomes poignantly clear. In 1850, Paul du Chaillu, an American explorer, went to study first-hand the giant ape and its habits. His encounter left one gorilla dead. In 1902 another party, led by Captain Oscar von Beringe, a German officer, "... managed to shoot two." In little more than 50 years the mountain gorilla was almost extinct.

In 1959 Dr. George Schaller began his pioneering research on the mountain gorilla. His study methods, in contrast to the gun-

toting collectors who had gone before him, was to insinuate himself among the gorillas until they accepted him as part of the scenery.

In 1967 Dian Fossey, at the urging of Louis Leakey, established Karisoke as a research station in the Virunga volcanoes. By the late 70's Fossey's scientific work was second to her fight against poaching. Through publications, television and lectures, Fossey rallied support throughout the world for her efforts to protect the mountain gorilla from extinction. The Academy's exhibit is meant to continue her work in educating people to protect a species that cannot protect itself.

After premiering at the Academy, where it will be on display through April 30, "Gorilla" will tour the country in an effort to increase public awareness of the need to preserve one of man's closest living primate relatives.

Major funding for this exhibit was provided by Mr. and Mrs. George Roberts with generous support from Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Soo-Hoo and the Institute of Museum Services.



## Symposium *A New Look at Trees*

Co-sponsored by the Academy of Sciences and the University of California Botanical Garden, "A New Look at Trees," a symposium and workshop, brings together a distinguished roster of tree specialists for two days of education and interchange at the Academy on February 19 and 20.

For further information contact: Tree Symposium, University of California Botanical Garden, Centennial Drive, Berkeley, CA 94720. (415)642-3343.

## Special Members' Lecture *How the AIDS Virus Works and What We Can Do About It* January 23, 7:30 p.m.

The California Academy of Sciences and San Francisco State University are proud to present Dr. Robert C. Gallo speaking on "How the AIDS Virus Works and What We Can Do About It" on Monday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Morrison Auditorium. Dr. Robert C. Gallo, M.D. has been the Chief of the Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology of the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health since 1972. The most widely recognized accomplishment of Dr. Gallo's distinguished research career is the 1984 identification of human immune deficiency virus (HIV) as the primary cause of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Seating will be limited for this free members' lecture. Tickets will be available, only one pair per membership, and can be picked up in advance by showing your membership card to the Membership assistant at the Academy's admission booth. To ensure a space, please plan on picking up your tickets as soon as possible. To inquire if seats are still available call the Academy's Membership Office at 750-7111.

## The California Academy of Sciences and Film Arts Foundation

Proudly Present

### "Treasures of Wild California: Hawks, Seals & Other Things — As Seen By Northern California Filmmakers"

Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Filmmakers In Person



Harris'  
Hawk



Wild  
California  
Elephant  
Seals

Susan Middleton



The  
Diminishing  
Greenbelt

Bob Walker

This program of three short independent works focuses on the disappearing wildlife of the Bay Area and California as a whole. Presented in conjunction with two

important exhibits at the Academy, the new hall of Wild California and Academy photographer Susan Middleton's show "Sliding Toward Extinction," the films offer another perspective on this timely issue. Both exhibits will be open for viewing after the screenings.

Pascale Weimerskirch's documentary "The Harris' Hawk: A Return to the River" traces the reintroduction to California of the Harris' Hawk, a species that became extinct in this state in the 1950s due to man's destruction of its habitat. It is the first film ever made about this splendid animal and what is being done to preserve it.

The plight of "The Northern Elephant Seal: Living on the Edge of Extinction" is considered in this thought-provoking film by Daniel Zatz. The film provides a wonderful way to introduce viewers to the increasingly important subject of genetic diversity.

"Treasures of the Greenbelt" by Judy Irving and Chris Beaver explores the nearly four million acres of parks and watersheds, farms and ranches, forests and vineyards that comprise the unique Greenbelt of the Bay Area.

### Ticket Order Form — Treasures of Wild California

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences for:

\_\_\_\_\_ member tickets at \$3

\_\_\_\_\_ guest tickets at \$4

Please send this form, your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Special Programs Office  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA 94118

For more information call 750-7217.

No refunds / No exchanges



## Traditional Arts

The Traditional Arts programs offer a first-hand look at the customs of cultures from around the world. The programs, which take place each Saturday in Wattis Hall, are endowed by a gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation. All programs begin at 1:00 p.m.

**January 7** — Lincoln McGraw-Beauchamp ("Chicago Beau") performs blues harmonica and discusses the evolution of blues music in the United States as part of the Afro-American experience.

**January 14** — The Academy is honored to welcome two visiting guests from China who will present two separate programs on Chinese textile arts, co-sponsored by the San Francisco Craft and Folk Art Museum. We start with Mr. Lu Guochang, Director of the Guiyang Arts and Crafts Research Institute in Guizhou Province, demonstrating batik — a fabric dye technique found in many countries in Asia.

**January 21** — Our second program on Chinese textile arts focuses on the skills of Ms. Ah-wu, a noted weaver and embroiderer from Huangping County in Guizhou Province. Please telephone ahead of time for details of this demonstration. (750-7164)

**January 28** — Renowned for her portrait dolls, Cecilia Rothman demonstrates the process of making porcelain dolls, from clay modeling and plaster casting to the painting, costuming, and wig-making of the completed figure.

## Members' Survey

You may have been one of the 750 members who were randomly selected to participate in a members' survey to help improve and further develop the Academy's membership program. Should a survey be sent to you by mail, please take the time to complete it and return it to us as soon as possible. Thanks for your help!

*The California Academy of Sciences presents  
The Claire Matzger Lilienthal Distinguished Lecturer Series*

## *The Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda*

Dr. David P. Watts



*Dr. David P. Watts*

This year's Claire Matzger Lilienthal lecturer will be Dr. David P. Watts who will share with us his extensive knowledge about the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. In his talk, Dr. Watts will draw on his five years of field research and involvement in conservation work at the Karisoke Research Center — the same center that has received international attention for the work of the late Dian Fossey and her associates.

In his talk, Dr. Watts will present an overview of mountain gorilla behavior and ecology, providing fascinating insights about the day to day lives of these shy and gentle

creatures. Most importantly, Dr. Watts will describe the complexity of the gorillas as revealed by their detailed behavior and social systems. He will also explain the conservation efforts needed to protect the gorillas and what you can do to contribute.

Dr. Watts received his Masters degree and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He is currently a research associate at the University of Michigan, where he has just been appointed Assistant Professor. He was also a technical advisor during the filming of "Gorillas in the Mist."

Thursday,  
January 12  
7:30 p.m.

Morrison  
Auditorium

### Ticket Order Form — Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check payable to the  
California Academy of Sciences  
for:

\_\_\_\_\_ member tickets at \$4

\_\_\_\_\_ guest tickets at \$5

Please send this form, your check  
and a self-addressed, stamped  
envelope to: Lilienthal Lecture  
The Special Programs Office  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA 94118

For more information call  
750-7217.

No refunds/No exchanges



## Lecture *Mt. Kenya Climbing Expedition*

February 16, 7:30 p.m.



*Brian O'Malley Scales Africa's Most Demanding Peak*

The American Mt. Kenya Expedition is the story of a small alpine expedition of two climbers attempting the difficult "Diamond Couloir" ice route on Mt. Kenya. Mt. Kenya is Africa's second highest, but most demanding peak. Located just ten miles south of the equator, Mt. Kenya rises to 17,058 feet.

On February 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Morrison Auditorium, adventurer Brian O'Malley will share with us this spectacular climbing expedition. The audience will experience the beauty of Africa through breath-taking sounds and photography. O'Malley will lead us through the African savanna, the lush rain forest, to the arctic conditions of the dangerous Diamond Couloir of Mt. Kenya — a 2,000 foot sheer wall of ice and snow. It's location on the equator, the unique ecological system and technically demanding routes, all add to the lure of Mt. Kenya.

Tickets are \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Special Programs Office, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

For more information call 750-7217.

## *A New Expedition!* *Guatemala: Heartland of the Maya*

In response to the enthusiastic interest generated by our 1987 expedition, we are pleased to announce this year's encore visit to "Guatemala: Heartland of the Ancient Maya" March 31-April 15. This fascinating country offers a broad diversity of ancient history, magnificent natural beauty and colorful native culture. Maya archeologist Peter Mathews, Ph.D. will accompany this group and provide a series of lectures that will serve to enhance the tour's educational experience.

This custom-designed itinerary includes the most spectacular and important Maya ruins of Guatemala and Honduras. Costs are \$2297 for land and \$663 for airfare. To reserve your place in this unforgettable adventure, contact the Academy Travel Office at 750-7222.



## *The World Awaits*

Let an Academy scientist lead you to a foreign shore! The destination might be almost anywhere on the globe, and your leader will offer special insights to the world around you. Academy Expeditions in 1989 offer a busy schedule of wild and wonderful tours across the globe.

### *Academy Expeditions in 1989!*

*Baja California*  
January 7-18  
Leader: Dr. James Kelley

*Antarctica and the Falkland Islands*  
January 9-25  
Leader: Dr. John McCosker

*Tanzania Tenting Safari*  
January 26-February 11  
Leader: Beth Dunbar  
Filled — Waiting list only

*Guatemala*  
*Heartland of the Ancient Maya*  
March 31-April 15  
Leader: Dr. Peter Mathews

*Costa Rica*  
March 28-April 8  
Leader: Dr. Frank Almeda

*The Silk Road*  
April 30-May 24  
Leader: Nancy Pickford

*Mongolia and Siberia*  
June 8-July 1  
Filled — Waiting list only

*Foods of France*  
June 17-July 2  
Leader: Narsai David

*Greenland and the Canadian Arctic*  
July 26-August 9  
Leader: Dr. James Kelley

*Canada: Prairies and Peaks*  
August 2-13  
Leader: Jacques Gauthier

*Caravans of Central Asia: Samarkand, Tashkent, Bukhara*  
September 9-22

*Namibia and Botswana: A Safari*  
September 11-29  
Leader: Beth Dunbar

*New Zealand, Tasmania, and Australia*  
September 27-October 17  
Leader: Dr. Frank H. Talbot

For information on Academy expeditions call the Academy's Travel Office at (415)750-7222.



## Lecture *Gorilla Quest in Nigeria*

Please note new date  
January 26, 7:30 p.m.



Sandra Leitch

### *A Lowland Gorilla*

The lowland gorillas were thought extinct in Nigeria for years, until the early 1980's when rumors reached the outside world that they still exist in the mountain rain forest here. Last April, an international survey team published the findings of a two-month search. Four bands of lowland gorillas, about 150 in all, are making a last

stand in the mountain rain forest here — the last stretch of untouched primary rain forest in this nation of 107 million people. The gorillas are the westernmost gorilla population in Africa.

On Thursday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Sandy Harcourt of the Department of Zoology at the University of Cambridge will discuss this exciting biological discovery in his slide-lecture, "Gorilla Quest in Nigeria." Dr. Harcourt will discuss the current pressures on the gorilla from hunting and habitat destruction. He will also discuss the recent education and conservation efforts that are helping to ensure their future.

Tickets are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Special Programs Office, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. For more information call 750-7217.

## *AAAS Science Day at the Academy*

Was "Eve" the mother of us all? What should teenagers know about AIDS? Can family involvement help kids' math scores? Does genetics hold a key in tracing the families of Argentina's "disappeared"?

These are the kinds of questions that will be the focus of a variety of lectures, films, and special programs for the public at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), held at the San Francisco Hilton from January 14-19.

On Monday, January 16 the 1989 AAAS Annual Meeting will feature "Public Science Day," a day filled with activities for the public at local museums, with a special emphasis on families and children. Events at the Academy that day include lectures on the Science in Action stage, performances by the Monterey Bay Aquarium staff, and hands-on activities to tie in with the Gorilla exhibit. There will also be events at the Exploratorium, the Lawrence Hall of Science and the Palace of Fine Arts. For more information about Public Science Day at the Academy call 750-7142.

## *Planetarium Concerts*



### *Harpist Sandy Smith and Guitarist Jack Montgomery*

Experience the traditional music of Latin America for guitar and harp when Platero performs in the Morrison Planetarium on Tuesday, January 24 at 8:00 p.m. The small, modal Spanish harp found its way from the coastal cities of Mexico and South America up into the highlands and back into the most remote valleys. Throughout Latin

America, harpists accompany dancers, serenade lovers, mourn those who have passed away, and entertain other musicians and composers with their skill and wit. Bambucos, Joropos, Huapangos, Malambos — the rhythms are as energetic as their names. At once intimate and timeless, this music resonates across cultural boundaries with its flowing melodies. Sandy Smith, harpist and ethnomusicologist, has lived and traveled in Latin America gathering knowledge of traditional harp music. She has worked with guitarist Jack Montgomery for several years, and together the duo has performed frequently in the Bay Area.

Tickets are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Morrison Planetarium, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. For more information call (415) 750-7129.

## *Young Audiences of the Bay Area*

With funding from the McKesson Foundation, Young Audiences of the Bay Area Inc. is pleased to sponsor a series of performing arts programs for children, taking place one Sunday every month through June 1989 in Wattis Hall. On Sunday, January 29 at 1:00 p.m., Robert Kikuchi-Ingojo introduces youngsters to the pulsating sounds of *kulintang* music, played on large bronze gongs. Robert invites audience participation and will show us how to play these unusual instruments and perform the masked dances associated with Philippine rituals and ceremonies.



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## January at the Academy

Continuing exhibitions and shows:

"Wild California" permanent  
"Sliding Toward Extinction: The Vanishing Wildlife of California" through May 18

- 1 Last day of "The Christmas Star" in Morrison Planetarium
- 6 "Skywatch '89" opens in Morrison Planetarium
- 7 Traditional Arts — Blues harmonica 1:00 p.m.
- 12 Lilienthal Lecture — "The Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda" 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Gorilla opens
- 14 Traditional Arts — Chinese textile arts 1:00 p.m.
- 16 AAAS Science Day
- 18 Members' Meetings — "Hawaiian Sea Turtles" at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Members' Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Traditional Arts — Chinese textile arts 1:00 p.m.
- 22 "Coelacanth: A Living Fossil" closes
- 24 Planetarium concert — Latin American guitar and harp 8:00 p.m.
- 26 Lecture — "Gorilla Quest in Nigeria" 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Traditional Arts — Doll making 1:00 p.m.
- 29 Young Audiences — Kulintang music 1:00 p.m.



To further your appreciation of the extraordinary creatures featured in the exhibit, "Gorilla," visitors will want to pick up a copy of the exhibition catalogue, "Gorilla: Struggle for Survival in the Virungas," which is available in the Academy Store at the publication price of only \$29.95. "Koko" and other gorilla items will also be available.

## Looking Ahead to February

- 2 "Treasures of Wild California" films 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Members' Meetings "Oregon Forests" 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Members' Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Lecture — "Mt. Kenya Climbing Expedition" 7:30 p.m.